

The U.S. House is slated to vote Friday on a bill that could bring \$43 million to help expand a veterans hospital in North Chicago and help upgrade the Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

The bill would set aside \$20 million toward building a \$90 million ambulatory care center run by the Navy and the Veterans Affairs Department at the VA Medical Center in North Chicago, according to a statement released by U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.). The money would also go toward building a \$15 million parking complex.

About \$23 million would go to the naval training center for general infrastructure upgrades, said Matt Towson, a spokesman for Kirk. Great Lakes is the Navy's only facility for training new recruits.

Kirk, who represents North Chicago and several other north suburbs, helped secure the funds as a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

If passed, the bill will go on to the U.S. Senate for consideration.